

Message

From: Roberts, Martha (Bennet) [Martha_Roberts@bennet.senate.gov]
Sent: 2/17/2021 2:06:46 PM
To: Harris, Sincere [Harris.Sincere@epa.gov]; Mercado Violand, Fernando [MercadoVioland.Fernando@epa.gov]
CC: Adhar, Radha [Adhar.Radha@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: CO delegation letter in support of KC Becker for Region 8 administrator

Wonderful, thanks so much and congratulations again!

From: Harris, Sincere <Harris.Sincere@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:05 AM
To: Roberts, Martha (Bennet) <Martha_Roberts@bennet.senate.gov>; Mercado Violand, Fernando <MercadoVioland.Fernando@epa.gov>
Cc: Adhar, Radha <Adhar.Radha@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: CO delegation letter in support of KC Becker for Region 8 administrator

Thank you, Martha – both for your kinds words of congratulations and for sharing the recommendation letter for KC with us.

As you can imagine, there is much to juggle with getting the agency staffed up and running, and bringing on a new Administrator (senate-confirmation willing!). We will be sure to reach out her regarding her interest in the Regional Administrator position.

Sincere A. Harris
White House Liaison, EPA
202-570-5675
[@EPA](#)

From: Roberts, Martha (Bennet) <Martha_Roberts@bennet.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:30 AM
To: Harris, Sincere <Harris.Sincere@epa.gov>; Mercado Violand, Fernando <MercadoVioland.Fernando@epa.gov>; KC Becker [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Cc: Adhar, Radha <Adhar.Radha@epa.gov>
Subject: CO delegation letter in support of KC Becker for Region 8 administrator

Dear Sincere and Fernando,

I wanted to share the attached letter from the Democratic members of Colorado's congressional delegation in support of KC Becker for Region 8 administrator and also put you in touch with KC directly. My colleague has also reached out on her behalf to our liaison in WH leg affairs.

I know you all are deluged getting started—congratulations on your new positions!—but it would be terrific if one of you can find time to chat with KC about her interest in serving as part of the Biden Administration. KC has a long history of making progress on important climate, environment, and equity priorities during her long record of service in local, state, and federal positions.

Thanks so much!

Martha
Senior Advisor to Sen. Michael Bennet on Climate and Energy

Message

From: Roberts, Martha (Bennet) [Martha_Roberts@bennet.senate.gov]
Sent: 2/17/2021 1:30:29 PM
To: Harris, Sincere [Harris.Sincere@epa.gov]; Mercado Violand, Fernando [MercadoVioland.Fernando@epa.gov]; KC Becker [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
CC: Adhar, Radha [Adhar.Radha@epa.gov]
Subject: CO delegation letter in support of KC Becker for Region 8 administrator
Attachments: 21.02.08 KC Becker Support Letter EPA Reg. Admin - CO Delegation Signed.pdf

Dear Sincere and Fernando,

I wanted to share the attached letter from the Democratic members of Colorado's congressional delegation in support of KC Becker for Region 8 administrator and also put you in touch with KC directly. My colleague has also reached out on her behalf to our liaison in WH leg affairs.

I know you all are deluged getting started—congratulations on your new positions!—but it would be terrific if one of you can find time to chat with KC about her interest in serving as part of the Biden Administration. KC has a long history of making progress on important climate, environment, and equity priorities during her long record of service in local, state, and federal positions.

Thanks so much!

Martha
Senior Advisor to Sen. Michael Bennet on Climate and Energy

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20510

February 8, 2021

Dear Biden Transition Team:

We write to recommend Colorado's Speaker of the House, KC Becker, for the position of Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 8.

Speaker Becker has served with distinction for four terms in the Colorado legislature, including two years as the House Majority Leader and two years as Speaker of the House. She led a historic term in the legislature, passing landmark oil and gas reform, climate change legislation, and helping to create the first-in-the-nation Office of Just Transition. Throughout the past tumultuous year, Speaker Becker steered the legislature through the COVID-19 pandemic by cutting billions out of the state budget, passing COVID relief legislation, and assisting with major police brutality legislation, which has since been replicated by states across the country.

Her leadership alone in state government is enough to demonstrate her stellar qualifications for the position as Regional Administrator for Region 8. Speaker Becker also has experience in local and federal government. After she moved to Colorado, she served four years on the Boulder City Council. Prior to that, she studied environmental and natural resources law and worked as an attorney-advisor for seven years at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Speaker Becker would be an asset to the EPA and to Region 8. We are confident she will work with diligence and enthusiasm to uphold the EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment.

We cannot recommend anyone more highly than Speaker KC Becker. We hope you give her every consideration for the role as Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 8.

Sincerely,



Michael Bennet
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Message

From: Kaplan, Matthew [Matthew.Kaplan@mail.house.gov]
Sent: 2/11/2021 7:41:41 PM
To: Harris, Sincere [Harris.Sincere@epa.gov]
CC: mercadoviols.FERNANDO@EPA.GOV
Subject: EPA Regional Administrator, Region Five Resumes
Attachments: Debra Shore resume 2020.pdf;

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Good afternoon, my boss asked that I send resumes for individuals that are seeking an appointment to the Region Five Regional Administrator position at EPA.

Priority Level for the boss

Region Five Administrator

Ragland: Medium

Shore: Medium/Low

Related water positions

Baron: Low

My boss is co-chair of Great Lakes Task Force which is a coalition of members focused on Great Lakes restoration.

Of the two candidates for the region five position that have come to our attention, **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)** is uniquely qualified to deal with the equity issue. If he is not chosen for the regional slot, we would hope there is a way to include him in the administration in some form.

Debra Shore would be eminently qualified and we would be pleased with her appointment as well.

I am also attaching a resume for **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)** she is seeking a water related position at EPA and has worked with our office when she was on **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**

Matthew Kaplan

Appropriations Associate/Counsel

Rep. Marcy Kaptur (OH-9)

2186 Rayburn HOB | 202-225-4146





DEBRA SHORE

Debra Shore has led the people of the Chicago region in protecting the natural environment and precious water resources of Lake Michigan for over 30 years. She founded *Chicago Wilderness Magazine*, led the regional conservation consortium Chicago Wilderness, and founded Friends of the Forest Preserves, where her devotion to the health of local natural areas led her to political advocacy. She was first elected as Commissioner to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) in 2006 and has guided the MWRD to a more robust protection of the natural environment and human health for the entire region.

Debra was the first openly gay person elected to a non-judicial post in Cook County, the second most populous county in the United States.

POSITION SOUGHT

Regional Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5

CURRENT OFFICE

Commissioner, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

December 2006–present

Elected three times to serve on the Board of Commissioners for a countywide agency with a \$1 billion annual budget and a 2,000-employee workforce whose mission is to protect Lake Michigan (the source of Cook County, Illinois' drinking water), as well as the health and safety of residents and area waterways. The MWRD is responsible for treating wastewater and managing stormwater for Chicago and 129 other municipalities in Cook County, serving five million people.

Notable achievements include:

- Advocated for cleanup of contaminated channel located in an environmental justice community on Chicago's Southwest Side and for odor-mitigation for communities near wastewater treatment plants
- Pushed to include all Cook County communities in stormwater partnership programs, and advocated leveraging agency funds to assist economic development and recreational opportunities in disadvantaged areas
- Established an independent Inspector General for MWRD to provide oversight and increase transparency
- Led the District to install disinfection technology at two of the largest wastewater treatment plants, significantly improving water quality
- Introduced a countywide pharmaceutical takeback ordinance and guided it to unanimous passage by the Cook County Board of Commissioners, ultimately expanding safe collection and disposal of unwanted and expired medicines and protecting regional waterways
- Promoted MWRD transformation from wastewater utility to resource recovery agency, including nutrients, biogas, biosolids, and water reuse
- Enacted widespread adoption of green infrastructure techniques to reduce sewer overflows and basement backups
- Currently co-chairing first strategic planning initiative conducted jointly with Board and staff

CONTACT

Evanston, IL 60203

debra@debrashore.org

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

www.debrashore.org

Twitter: @debrashore

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Executive Education. Awarded a certificate of completion for the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program

Master of Fine Arts, Creative Writing
Columbia College, Chicago

Master of Liberal Arts
Johns Hopkins University

Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy and Visual Arts
Phi Beta Kappa,
Goucher College

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Great Lakes Protection Fund

Appointed as board member in 2009 by former Illinois Governor Pat Quinn. Served twice as Board Chair for the first private, permanent endowment created to benefit a specific ecosystem. The Great Lakes Protection Fund seeks to catalyze the continuous development of new technologies, innovative methods, and practical regional actions to improve the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem. The Fund awards \$3-\$4 million each year in grants for projects that identify, demonstrate, and promote new regional actions to improve the health of the Great Lakes.

The Restoration Project

Served as sole Midwest representative on 11-member team for the Restoration Project, identifying and ranking the 100 most critical environmental harms caused by the Trump administration with a guide to restorative actions. The Project reports, provided to the Biden transition team in mid-November, provide tactical tools to reverse the degradation of environmental protection and lands and water stewardship; restart fundamental environmental policy, workforce, science, and public engagement programs; and restore the federal commitment to environmental protection and lands and water stewardship.

Chicago Wilderness, Magazine Editor and Development Director

Led development efforts and launched and edited award-winning quarterly magazine (1997-2007) for conservation consortium that united 300+ public and private agencies and organizations from southeastern Wisconsin to southwestern Michigan in a large-scale, collective effort to protect, preserve and restore the biological diversity of the Chicago region. Built circulation to 9,000 paid subscribers, established retail sales and advertising sales operation, secured private foundation funding, supervised writers, photographers, and managing editor.

Friends of the Forest Preserves

Founder and board member of watchdog and advocacy group for the 70,000 acres held in public trust by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. Oversaw production of a comprehensive report on the Forest Preserves' ecological health, management practices, and future challenges.

North Branch Restoration Project

Habitat restoration volunteer in oak woods and savannas, prairies and wetlands in the Cook County Forest Preserves for 25+ years.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Consultant, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (1990-1991)

Assisted director of the Education Program, prepared grant proposals for presentation to the Board; researched and wrote a prototype newsletter describing numerous projects and their findings.

Investigator, Better Government Association (1982-1990)

Conducted background research, interviewed sources, obtained and analyzed documents, wrote position papers and press releases, coordinated projects with local and national producers and reporters, participated in press conferences, conducted radio, television, and print interviews. Participated in more than 50 investigations including:

- **"The Meat We Eat,"** NBC's *First Camera* 9/83 and 1/84: An examination of the federal meat inspection system leading to a Congressional hearing, criminal indictments and convictions, tougher regulations. **Nominated for a national Emmy Award.**
- **"Airport Security,"** CBS' *60 Minutes* 12/85 and 5/86: Worked undercover at O'Hare Airport as a cabin cleaner servicing international airlines. Program led to enforced background checks of security and service personnel.

BOARD SERVICE

Great Lakes Protection Fund (2009-present; Board chair 2010 & 2017)

Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership Training Academy (2012-present; Board chair 2015-2017)

University of Chicago Women's Board (1999-present)

LGBTQ Victory Institute (2009-2017; Board chair 2011-2014)

Congregation Sukkat Shalom (2011-2017; Board president 2015-2017)

Friends of the Forest Preserves (1998-2006)

PUBLICATIONS

- Peer-reviewed article "[From Waste Treatment to Resource Recovery: A Chicago Sustainability Story](#)," published in *MRS Energy & Sustainability*, 4 (July 2017).
 - Contributed a chapter on Chicago neighborhoods to *The Unofficial Guide to Chicago* (Macmillan Travel, 1995, 1997).
 - Cover story in June 1994 *Outside* titled "Bad Lands" (nominated for a National Magazine Award).
 - Cover story in May 1992 *Outside* on "Crown Jewel National Parks" (won Gold Award from American Travel Writers Foundation for Best Service-Oriented Consumer Article).
 - Published articles have appeared in *Outside*, United Airlines *Hemispheres*, Southwest Airlines' *Spirit*, *George*, *The University of Chicago Magazine*, *Kew Magazine*, *On Wisconsin*, *Chicago Magazine*, *Teacher*, *Catalyst*, *Brown Alumni Monthly*, *Texas Monthly*, *Huffington Post*, as well as op-eds in *Chicago Tribune*.
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AWARDS

Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, 2014

Public Officials Award, Water Environment Federation, 2013

Public Official Award, Illinois Water Environment Federation, 2013

Tree of Life Award, Jewish National Fund, 2010

Friend of Keep Chicago Beautiful, 2008

Peter Lisagor Award for Excellence in Journalism/Editorial Writing, Chicago Headline Club, April 2003

PERSONAL

Happily married to Kathleen Gillespie

Son, Benjamin Smith

Have climbed 42 of the 54 mountains in Colorado more than 14,000' high

Avid camper and hiker

Enjoys reading, biking, kayaking, and birding

Message

From: Lynch, Chris (Cardin) [Chris_Lynch@cardin.senate.gov]
Sent: 3/12/2021 5:02:18 PM
To: Adhar, Radha [Adhar.Radha@epa.gov]; Utech, Dan [Utech.Dan@epa.gov]
Subject: Two letters
Attachments: Maryland and Virginia Senators Rec for [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] Cardin VanHollen for Adam Ortiz - EPA R3.pdf

Dan and Radha,

I believe I discussed with both of you a preview of these two letters. The first is for [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] to lead Chesapeake Bay efforts from the Administrator's office from the Maryland and Virginia Senators. And the second from the Maryland Senators in support of Adam Ortiz to be the Region III Administrator. I think we are sending you two very strong people who could make a real difference in the Mid-Atlantic.

Would you confirm with me that you received these and let me know if you need hard copies? Please also let me know if we can be of any other help now or in the future.

Thanks,
Chris

Christopher W. Lynch
Chief of Staff
US Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 24, 2021

Mr. Michael Regan
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator, #1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:


We write to strongly recommend that you appoint Adam Ortiz as Region 3 Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency. We believe he brings the experience, skills and knowledge for this important position.

Mr. Ortiz has been deeply involved in environmental issues as Director of the Department of the Environment in two major counties in Maryland over the past 9 years. In those positions, he has addressed critical issues and initiatives around climate change, clean water, clean air, watershed restoration, and other areas central to Region 3. As head of these departments, he was in charge of overseeing and managing large budgets and staffs, as well as interacting with local, state and national officials.

Further, as an elected official in Maryland, Mr. Ortiz understands the sensitivities of managing competing interests. As the Mayor of Edmonston, Maryland he had to set priorities to address often conflicting concerns, while maintaining fiscal responsibility. During his tenure, then Mayor Ortiz implemented the Edmonston Green Street Project, later used to develop EPA's *Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Grant Program*. Indeed, his achievements in office were recognized by national media, the White House, the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the EPA, among others.

We have both known Mr. Ortiz for many years and have always enjoyed working with him. We can think of no one better qualified and better acquainted with the issues and challenges of Region 3 to direct this office. Adam Ortiz will bring great skills and sensitivity to this critical position, along with years of direct experience with the issues affecting Region 3. We hope you agree, and will appoint him as Regional Administrator.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator